

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 IO-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OES-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /055 W

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P 111535Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2845

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, NG

CSUBJ: NIGER FOOD AID

REF: A. NIAMEY 554; B. STATE 32705; C. NIAMEY 562; D. NIAMEY 4891

1. SHORT ANSWER TO DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR COMMENTS  
ON GON'S ESTIMATE OF 200,000 TONS TO MEET COUNTRY'S  
FOOD NEEDS BEFORE RAINS IS THAT THIS IS POLITICAL  
DECISION MADE BY PRESIDENT, STATISTICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR  
WHICH IS MURKY.

2. AS REPORTED IN REF A, DJERMAKOYE INFORMED FEB 9  
MEETING OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS THAT GON ESTIMATED ITS FOOD  
DEFICIT FOR 1975/76 AT ABOUT 200,000 TONS. GON  
HAS TECHNICALLY NEVER ACCEPTED OSRO MISSION FINDING OF  
108,000 TON N ED. 200,000 TON FIGURE FIRST SURFACED IN  
KOUNTCHE'S DECEMBER 18 REVUBLICDAY ADDRESS TO NATION  
(REF D). MORE RECENTLY, FRENCH EMBASSY INFORMED US THAT  
THROUGH ITS EMBASSY IN PARIS, GON APPEALED TO GOF ON  
JANUARY 9 FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE CITING TOTAL NEED OF  
200,000 TONS.

3. WE HAVE BEEN AWARE FOR SOME TIME THAT GON PLANNED  
RESURFACE 200,000 TON NEED AT FEB 9

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MEETING. IN DAYS BEFORE MEETING, ROTIVAL AND DABELL

OF OSRO ATTEMPTED DISSUADE KOUNTCHE, BAYERE MOUSSA AND DJERMAKOYE FROM USING THIS FIGURE AS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, BUT THEY WERE UNSUCCESSFUL, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE KOUNTCHE FEELS HIMSELF COMMITTED TO THIS TOTAL.

4. DURING FEB 9 MEETING BOTH BAYERE MOUSSA AND ALI CHAIBOU IN THEIR PRESENTATIONS STUCK TO THEIR INSTRUCTIONS TO ADHERE TO 200,000 TON REQUIREMENT, BUT IMPLICIT IN THEIR REMARKS AND JUSTIFICATION TO DONORS FOR FOOD AID WAS APPEAL FOCUSING ON OSRO MISSION FINDING OF 108,000 TONS WMBH WHICH DONOR COMMUNITY IS GENERALLY ASSOCIATES. THIS IS WHAT WE HOPE DONORS WILL CONCENTRATE ON.

5. POSITION WE HAVE TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO MAGNITUDE DEFICIT FOLLOWS THAT ESTABLISHED IN STATE 28720, PARA B-1, NAMELY: WE CONSIDER NIGER'S GRAIN IMPORT NEEDS TO BE SUBSTANTIAL BUT WHETHER THEY ARE AS GREAT AS ESTIMATED BY OSRO TEAM WILL NOT BECOME CLEAR UNTIL LATER IN THE SEASON; IN ANY EVENT IT IS CLEAR THAT SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF ADDITIONAL IMPORTS BEYOND THOSE RECEIVED TO DATE OR PROGRAMMED ARE NEEDED, AND OUGHT TO BE SHIPPED FOR ARRIVAL IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BEFORE THE RAINS. THIS WAS WHAT RDO BARON TOLD AP REPORTER PREUTHARD (WHO CALLED FROM PARIS) IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON GRAVITY OF FOOD SITUATION, PREUTHARD FOLLOWED UP BY ASKING HOW GON'S ESTIMATE OF 200,000 TONS SQUARED WITH OSRO'S EVALUATION TEAM ESTIMATE. RDO REMARKED HE PERSONALLY FELT OSRO ESTIMATES WERE CLOSER TO THE MARK.HECK

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## Message Attributes

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